

WHAT'S WRONG WITH OUR CHAMBER OF COMMERCE?

An Editorial

"It is no accident that Los Angeles county is today both one of the most populous and most prosperous in the United States," said J. A. Hartley, president of the Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce recently. "Empires are built by men—so are cities and great industrial areas. Such things don't grow on trees. Los Angeles county has been made great by men working cooperatively for community welfare, in such organizations as our Chambers of Commerce."

These remarks by the head of the largest and most active Chamber of Commerce in the world may well be taken as a guide by the civic-minded citizens of Torrance who are now considering re-organization of the Torrance Chamber of Commerce, along lines that should make it a more effective force in the upbuilding of this community.

For years, many of us have realized that there was something wrong with the set-up of our Chamber. It lacked vitality and enthusiasm, but most serious of all, it did not seem to have the confidence and support of a large portion of the citizenry. This was a bad situation, injurious to all.

Perhaps much of the fault lay in its own organization and particularly in the method by which it was financed through subsidy of the city council with all the political complications that such an affiliation encourages. Even Chamber directors frequently referred to themselves as "rubber stamps" for the city council. Furthermore, with support coming without effort from the tax coffers there was no incentive to get out and fight for existence—and by accomplishments merit continued support of civic-minded citizens and property owners.

It is now proposed to put the Chamber on a new basis—to make it independent and self financed, at least insofar as its operation is concerned. If occasions arise to criticize the city administration, the Chamber will be free to speak its mind. It can get out and work for civic betterments—or tax curtailments—that are for the public weal. In other words, the Chamber can become a strong, self-respecting group of hard hitting civic-minded citizens working cooperatively for the common good.

We see examples of such work in other cities and we believe that Torrance is capable of the same effort if proper organization is provided. To illustrate the point, let us review the work of civic leaders in Long Beach and the valiant fight they made—and won—to secure the \$2,500,000 U. S. Navy hospital recently.

Last February when Congressman Ward Johnson let it be known there was a possibility of the huge hospital being built in this area, the Long Beach Chamber of Commerce industrial committee started a quiet survey to obtain facts which would substantiate the contention that Long Beach provided the most logical location. The president and secretary of the Long Beach Chamber consulted various sources of information in this area to determine by facts and figures why Long Beach should be chosen. The result of their survey was not made known locally, but was prepared in elaborate and comprehensive form and forwarded to Congressman Johnson, Secretary of the Navy Frank Knox, Surgeon General Ross T. McIntyre, and Admiral Blakely at San Diego—all key men whose influence was necessary to get the \$2,500,000 hospital for any community. As the result of this carefully planned campaign, Long Beach "sold itself" to the Navy Department before other cities with less alert Chambers of Commerce were even aware of the possibility of the project.

We cite this example of Long Beach to show what can be done by an intelligent, aggressive Chamber of Commerce. The same type of promotion can be equally effective in securing factories, group home building and other developments. But such an effort calls for united support. Won't you do YOUR part by helping re-organize the Torrance Chamber of Commerce along constructive, progressive, and democratic lines?—G.C.W.

COLUMBIA STEEL'S PLANT AT PITTSBURG WILL EXPAND

Columbia Steel Company, subsidiary of United States Steel Corporation, this week furnished details of its program to increase the capacity of its Pittsburgh plant, which will place it

NO DEVELOPMENTS AT LOCAL PLANT

Quered by The Herald concerning possible expansion of the Torrance plant of the Columbia Steel Co., Charles W. Huse, director of public relations for the firm at San Francisco, this week said there was no information for release at this time on developments for Torrance.

In a stronger position to meet the demands of National Defense.

The program includes the addition of a new semi-continuous rod mill together with billet heating furnaces, rod cooling and handling equipment. The rod mill will be housed in a new

building to be built east of the plant's open hearth building.

The plant's wire and nail mill will be improved and extended to include additional wire drawing and nail machines, and new facilities for the manufacture of some wire products, the production of which was formerly confined to eastern mills. Warehousing facilities of the wire mill also will be increased.

Some changes also will be made to the primary rolling mills allowing production of longer rod billets.

The steel making capacity of the Pittsburgh plant is being increased to the extent of 77,000 tons of ingots annually by the installation of a new open hearth furnace and by an increase in the capacity of the four existing open hearth furnaces. The program will require extension of the plant's open hearth building, the addition of new ladles, an additional ladle crane, and a new charging machine.

Laguna Drainage Project Hearing Called by Army

With Pat MacDonnell, secretary of the Gardena Valley Chamber of Commerce, presiding, Army engineers will hold a public hearing next Tuesday morning, Oct. 28, at Inglewood to take testimony on the county's application for Federal funds to carry out a \$1,790,000 Laguna Dominguez preliminary drainage project. The hearing will begin at 10 a. m. at the court room of the county building, 100 West Queen st., Inglewood.

Municipal officers, civic leaders and residents in the district are expected to marshal evidence at the hearing to demonstrate the peril to national defense of the winter storms that

inundate highways and vast stretches of land in the Gardena valley and Keystone district.

The \$1,790,000 being sought from the government would be used for preliminary work of an \$8,000,000 project designed to provide permanent flood protection in a 22-square-mile area. The Keystone and Gardena Chambers have been urging Laguna drainage work for the last five years.

City Engineer Glenn Jain was authorized by the city council Monday night to represent Torrance at the hearing.

Chamber of Commerce directors at their meeting Monday appointed R. R. Smith, immediate

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Four Motorists Facing Drunk Driving Trials

Two of the four motorists charged last weekend here with drunk driving were involved in collisions with other machines prior to their arrest. They were Mrs. Marian DeMont, 44, of 1228 Acacia ave., and William Donald Richardson, 24, of Walteria.

Mrs. DeMont was arrested on Friday night on Torrance Blvd., after colliding with two other cars, according to police reports. Her trial was set for Tuesday but was postponed because of her illness to Saturday. She is at liberty on \$100 bail.

Richardson was picked up Saturday night on Pacific Coast (101) highway after allegedly colliding with two other cars and turning his machine over. He was charged with reckless driving in addition to driving while intoxicated. Richardson was reported cut and bruised about the shoulders and legs in his last crash.

Two Pay Fines One of the cars he is said to have struck was owned by C. J. Gorbet of Lomita. Richardson was released on \$150 bail. He has retained counsel, it is understood, but the date for the trial has not been set as yet.

The other two motorists facing trials Saturday morning before Judge John Shidler for driving while intoxicated are William Aubfa Taylor, 42, Los Angeles, who was arrested Sunday afternoon on Pacific Coast (101) highway and released on \$150 bail, and Frank Allen, 47, Van Nuys, who was picked up Saturday afternoon and released on \$150 bail.

Judge Shidler reduced the drunk driving charges placed against Lawrence Akers Moore, 22, 1816 Andreo ave., to being drunk in an auto and fined him \$25 last Saturday. Arthur Dial, 35, Los Angeles, paid a \$60 fine the same day for drunk driving after he had pleaded guilty to the charge.

Jury Convicts San Pedran of Drunk Driving

A jury, composed of nine women and three men, found Walter William Russell, 38, San Pedro, guilty of driving while intoxicated on the night of Sept. 28 after deliberating on the case for 28 minutes last Saturday afternoon. Russell conducted his own defense without benefit of counsel while Police Chief John Stroh presented the prosecution's case.

Russell was sentenced to 30 days in the county jail and a fine of the case were turned over to state parole officers inasmuch as he is a former convict. Two other charges placed against Russell were dismissed by Judge John Shidler at the request of police.

Members of the jury were Messrs. Albert A. Price, Fred W. Sandstrom and Tom A. Mitchell and Mesdames Della E. Page, Earl Clayton, Lottie H. Merriam, Augustine Cucci, Mary Ellen Smith, Julia B. Neelands, Wilhelmina N. Bishop, Muriel B. Hannon and Sara Isen.

TERM EXPLAINED "Shooting the sun" means a navigator's observation of the sun through a sextant, an instrument used for determining positions at sea.

New Face



Hollywood experts think this actor from Uruguay, Alberto Vila, will make ladies' hearts flutter. He was a favorite in Latin America. He's an ex-banker, soccer football player—and candidate for title of Hollywood's best-dressed male actor.

Fabulous Parkway Scheme Exhumed for Definite Interment by City and County

Like an echo from the fabulous '20s' the ghost of the long dormant Hollywood-Palos Verdes Parkway rose Monday night as result of a letter to the council, enclosing the copy of a letter to the Regional Planning Commission from the Huntington Land and Improvement's vice-president, E. L. Callahan.

He exhorted that ambitious project which, years ago, was attracting considerable attention of civic boosters from Hollywood to Palos Verdes through the South Bay district.

A 225-foot thoroughfare, landscaped to park-like perfection was proposed long before pre-

sent motor "freeways" were even dreamed of. However, its magnitude strangled it in the end—came the depression and such visions of beauty faded before the onslaught of hard times.

A "Great Mistake" Nevertheless, the Hollywood-Palos Verdes Parkway didn't die like the flag-pole or tree-sitting marathon craze did. And that was what prompted Vice-President Callahan to exhume the remains and demand they be interred under a formal abandonment resolution by any person or group once concerned with the plan.

He wrote the council that he had presumed the grandiloquent

project was completely discarded because for many years it had lain dormant and no funds were ever appropriated from any agency to inaugurate the work. He declared it was a "great mistake" on the part of Hollywood Riviera developers to give a 225-foot dedication through that choice residential area for the parkway.

Callahan requested the city to formally abandon any interest in the project and enclosed a similar letter to the County Regional Planners, whose records of the plan are believed to be still open. His request was referred to City Engineer Glenn Jain for recommendation.

Labor Council Wants Free Use of Aud. for Dance

A resolution from the Torrance Labor Council, composed of all local C. I. O. unions, asked the city council Monday night for the free use of the Civic Auditorium for a benefit dance to raise funds for the erection of a proposed Labor Temple, costing approximately \$18,000. No date was given for the dance.

The Labor Council's resolution stated that Mayor Tom McGuire and Councilman George V. Powell had said they were opposed to the free use of the municipal building. It was signed by Tom Wagner, president of S. W. O. C. Lodge No. 1414.

Powell said he did not recall ever being contacted by any labor group to get the use of the hall free. At Councilman Vern Babcock's request, the resolution will be acted on by the entire city council Oct. 28.

Cabrillo Needs Funds Now to Improve Strip

Notice having been received by the city council Monday night that the Interstate Commerce Commission has approved the Pacific Electric's abandonment of its line along Cabrillo ave. following sale of the right-of-way to the city, the way was clear this week for improvement of Cabrillo to make that street a paved 80-foot thoroughfare.

But there was no sigh of relief from councilmen or interested residents. The city has yet to appropriate the money for removal of the poles and wiring, estimated to cost \$2,500; or to rip out the rails and ties—a job that the P. E. wanted \$9,500 two years ago when it offered to do this work, or to pay the cost, estimated at \$3,700, of paving the 16-foot right-of-way from Torrance Blvd., to Carson street.

The I. C. C. notified the city it had approved abandonment of the P. E. line along Cabrillo from Torrance Blvd. to Plaza del Amo on Oct. 3 and the okay would be effective in 15 days or on Oct. 18.

"I'd like to know what the council wants us to do now," City Engineer Glenn Jain inquired. "We estimate the cost estimates on the paving of the center strip ready." The three-man city board of Councilmen George V. Powell, Vern Babcock and Kenneth H. Kall decided to wait until Mayor Tom McGuire and Councilman James Hitchcock are present on Oct. 28 before going ahead with the Cabrillo project.

A letter from the Torrance Kiwanis club, stating that the membership was "watching for early action on this project," was filed for reading again when the council goes into the improvement project next Tuesday night.

Engineer Jain said he had developed some interesting plans for "channelization" of Cabrillo, dividing the street with a narrow landscaped strip for greater safety and also to provide much safer intersections at the "five-points" of Cabrillo, Carson and Cravens and at the Pacific Electric station.

Beverly Hills Saves Nearly Million In Taxes Since Separation From Los Angeles City School District

Beverly Hills taxpayers started shaking hands with themselves all over again this week when they learned they had saved more than \$900,000 in high school levies since 1935, according to a report submitted to the board of education by E. J. Hummel, deputy superintendent of Beverly Hills schools.

Quakes were: (Insert your Own Description)

What was your impression of those shocking wiggles Mother Earth indulged herself in Tuesday night and Wednesday morning?

Were they (1) rocking-chair rolls, (2) dips and sways, (3) rolling southeast to northwest (4) rumbling like an asthmatic Model T, or (5) were those quakes "just like a concrete statue of Mae West" doing the "hump" as one local citizen described?

Whatever they were, they aroused the entire citizenry—the first one at 10:58 Tuesday night comparable to the Mar. 10, 1933 tremor that caused so much damage in this area. While there was little if any property loss from the quakes locally, South Bay cities of Redondo, Manhattan and Hermosa Beaches reported many windows shattered.

Two local stores had their window displays tumbled about.

National Supply Signs C.I.O. Pact

As result of more than two months of negotiations, the National Supply Co. signed a "wages, hours and working conditions" contract Tuesday night with the Oil Field Workers Union, a C.I.O. affiliate, which covers about 800 hourly rated employees. The pact is nothing new to the firm inasmuch as the National Supply has had contracts with other unions for the past four or five years.

It is understood that the new contract is of the "open shop" type although officials of the firm refused to comment on this phase of the agreement. It covers all hourly rated workers with the exception of those in supervisory positions.

Negotiations leading to the agreement were started shortly after the Oil Field Workers Union won a National Labor Relations election at the plant last July 30.

Kempen Heads Business Men

William Kempen, owner of the Vend Dress Shop, was elected president of the Torrance Business Men's Association at a meeting of the recently-chosen directors yesterday afternoon. He will be assisted by E. W. Quimby of J. J. Newberry Co., vice-president; Robert Deinger of the Torrance National Bank, secretary; and Postmaster Earl Conner, treasurer.

Directors are Carney Emmet, Louis Leppé, E. E. Murchison, Jacob Koch, Sam Levy and R. K. Daggett. The entire board has scheduled a meeting for tomorrow (Friday) morning at 10 o'clock at the Chamber of Commerce to discuss Christmas decorations plans with Dale Riley of the city recreation department.

Governor Seeks Chamber to Re-organize November 3

Gov. Culbert Olson will announce a decision on whether or not he will call a special election to fill the vacancy in Congress caused by the death of Rep. Lee E. Geyer of Gardena sometime within the first week of November. He informed a delegation of mayors and representatives from communities in the 17th congressional district yesterday that he is asking Attorney General Earl Warren for a ruling on whether or not the 46th assembly district could participate in such an election.

The governor also said he wants to obtain additional opinion in the district, but is "strangely influenced" by the delegation's request for an election.

A member of the group which conferred with Olson was City Attorney John E. McCall of Torrance. Others were Mayors Raymond V. Darby of Inglewood, spokesman for the delegation; Charles K. Blech of Manhattan Beach; Carleton Jones of Hermosa Beach; Charles Van Der Oef of Hawthorne; and Isaac Hawkins of Redondo. Darby said there is still 14 months of Geyer's term to run and that the district now without representation in Congress includes nine

incorporated cities five shipyards, three airports and many public projects.

The beach towns and Inglewood which comprise the 46th assembly district were added to the 17th congressional area in the 1941 reapportionment and the question has been raised whether or not they can vote in a special election.

If an election is called, the requirement that nominating petitions must contain close to 10,000 signatures of voters in the present enlarged Congressional district will act as an automatic check on the number of candidates.

Even if the Attorney General should rule that the election must be confined to the old 17th district, its total vote at the last Congressional poll was 131,155 and five percent—the number required for nominating petitions—would be 6,658, an impossible number for anybody but a genuine candidate with strong backing.

Club Leader Asks City to Aid Mothers' Center

Continued support by the city of the Mothers' Educational Center, which has carried on child welfare work as a Women's club project here for the past 18 or 20 years was requested of the council Monday night by Mrs. Mildred Mitchell, president of the club. She stated that the Chamber of Commerce had previously given financial backing to the Center and now that the city no longer subsidizes the chamber, the aid was asked of the municipal government direct.

Councilman Vern Babcock asked that City Attorney John McCall present an opinion on whether the city can provide such finances now and also that City Clerk A. H. Bartlett submit a report on what sum the chamber formerly gave to the Center.

Work Starts on Radio Unit for Police Dept. Excavation for the Torrance police department's 90-foot radio antenna was started Friday. Arrangements to install the transmitter will be made as soon as possible and it will go into operation immediately. Effective over a 30-mile radius, the transmitter is of 50 watts power and is costing approximately \$2,200.

Work Starts on Radio Unit for Police Dept. Building permits for three garages and a five-room home were issued from the city engineer's office during the past week.

Don Mitchell of 1517 El Prado is having the frame and stucco home and double garage built at 1028 Beech st. at a cost of \$4,400. The garages are being erected for A. M. Dowell of 915 Cota ave.; \$250; George Thatcher of 22504 Martha st., \$360, and John Marker of 2111 Andreo ave., \$100.

State Guard Camp at Alondra Park Delayed

Opening of a "Plattsburg-type" military training center at Alondra Park in North Torrance for business and professional men will be delayed a few weeks. Lt. Col. Frank R. Reynolds, California State Guard commanding officer of the camp, announced late last week. The camp was originally scheduled to open October 15.

Col. Reynolds explained the delay was caused by inability to

Re-organization of the Torrance Chamber of Commerce as an independent self-financed body for community improvement will be discussed at a meeting of chamber members Nov. 3, at 7:30 p.m. in the chamber offices. This decision was announced by Dean L. Sears, president, following a meeting of directors Monday afternoon this week.

Sears said that the action was unanimous among directors who attended the two-hour session. Those present in addition to President Sears included Max Felker, Sherwood McIntyre, O. A. Kresse, Fay L. Parks, R. R. Smith and A. H. Silligo.

Notices will be sent to all chamber members inviting them to attend the important meeting Nov. 3, and those who find it impossible to be present are requested to return the proxies enclosed with the notices of the meeting in order that any action taken by the membership will be representative of the entire community, Sears stated.

Office Continues Open The plan to be submitted to the members included complete dissolution of the present Chamber of Commerce organization, and a substitute plan of re-organizing the civic body as a self-financed association for the improvement of the community.

For many years the Torrance chamber has been sustained by a subsidy allocated to it by the city council out of the ten-cent per \$100 assessed valuation promotion fund. This financial support, however, was cancelled during the recent recall election campaign.

Withdrawal of these tax funds necessitates dismissal of the full time chamber secretary. Since July 1 a clerk has been engaged whose salary is paid out of reserve funds accumulated from membership dues.

Until a decision is reached by the members Nov. 3, the chamber offices will be kept open and the clerk retained on duty, Sears announced.

City Workers Joining C.I.O.

Affiliation of Torrance municipal employees with the C.I.O. in progress here for several weeks, is expected to result in a 100 per cent sign-up with the union at the next meeting of the employees' association, it was learned today.

Eleven city workers have joined the C.I.O. and 58 more have pledged their membership, it was understood today. The city workers recently gained pay boosts following their organizing as an association. They will hold a public benefit dinner and entertainment Nov. 1 in the Civic Auditorium. The proceeds will be used for furnishing a room in the new addition to Torrance Memorial hospital.

One Home and Three Garages Being Erected

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Elaine Leroy of Los Angeles placed an expensive price tag on spinal injuries suffered in auto accident when she was riding for \$41,700.

Asks \$41,700

The status of liberty was unveiled Oct. 28, 1886, in the presence of 1,000,000 people.

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